

# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

*"Protecting You and Your Community"*

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Reinke  
Governor  
Director

Brent D.

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**TO: FCC Commissioners**

**SUBJECT: CC Docket No. 96-128**

Comments to the Alternative Rulemaking Proposal regarding  
issues related to inmate calling services

April 2, 2007

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in response to the Federal Communication Commission's call for comment on a proposal to cap inmate telephone rates.

The current FCC proposal, if is enacted, would be detrimental to the Idaho Department of Correction. Interstate calls make up about 6% of the calls made from Idaho prisons. Currently, a 30-minute interstate collect call is \$29.30, while the same call using debit is \$25.90. Under the proposal before the FCC, the same call would cost \$7.50 and \$6.00 respectively.

The change in telephone rates, if all phones commissions were eliminated, would create a shortfall of \$1.086 million dollars.

- The funding received is used to support positions that provide important inmate services including religious and recreational activities. These services, while not a proper allocation of taxpayer dollars, directly enhance inmate living conditions and provide a positive pro-social diversions for the inmate population.
- The call set-up charge is necessary to off-set the costs of added requests to block calls generated by this population.
- Rates have decreased considerably based on the new contract recently enacted by the IDOC with a new provider.

Idaho lawmakers instructed the Department to review and rebid the telephone contract to select a bid that was less costly to inmates and their families. This goal was accomplished with the current contract and has been meet with positive response from families.

Please reconsider enacting this proposal to cap inmate telephone fees.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent D. Reinke". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brent D. Reinke, Director